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Letters to the Editor

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The palmetto trees down here aren't used to snow and neither are the palmetto bugs! It has been quite a winter for you and me! It snowed two days straight in Charleston sending those of us who don't know how to drive in the snow straight to our beds. Of course, it snowed at night so that we Charlestonians wouldn't see what was happening; we just awakened to barely half an inch of snow two mornings in a row. Wow! This is not something we are used to. My son Raymond who lives up in Watertown, NY, thinks we are horrible wimps. I guess it's a matter of perspective.

The year 2000 has arrived and we here at *ATG* have plenty of news on the state of the industry. **Lolly Gasaway** looks at copyright, **Dan Halloran** looks at bookselling, **Karen Hunter** looks at publishing. Then we have looked at the Tasini and Ryan cases from

several perspectives. **Georgia Harper** as well as **Phil Wallas** have looked at the cases from the perspectives of the library and the aggregator. **Ana Terry** rounds the issue out by asking for viewpoints from different people in the industry. And finally **David Stam** eloquently tells us why we still buy books. Other things to look for in this issue: **Lynne Lysiak** tells us about a delegation of librarians visiting Cuba, **Heather Miller** takes a great look at the last **Charleston Conference** of the 20th century, **Sandy Paul** tells us about a barcode survey, **Thomas Bacher** discusses scholarly communication and the university press, **Barry Fast** talks about the Internet and government, and I could go on and on. We have two great interviews in this issue. One with **Jonathan Tasini** and the other with **Charles Halpin**. One talks about electronic rights, writers and publishers, and the

other talks about a new look to an old standby, *Books In Print*. How can you miss reading all of this? You can't, can you?



Oh, and in this issue we are trying out something new. Since a lot of you have asked us about jobs, we are instituting a new "classified section" on a trial basis. There are two jobs listed there, see page 40. Let us know what you think of this new feature!

My hands are freezing so I'm going to go find me a fireplace and read the rest of *ATG*. While my teeth are chattering, I will no doubt find myself wishing for 80 degree weather. Who would have ever guessed?

Yr. Ed. 



Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strauchk@earthlink.net> (Please note **NEW** email address), phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: **Against the Grain**, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the *ATG* Homepage at <<http://www.against-the-grain.com>>.

Dear Editor:

Hello. Just a little housekeeping: I haven't rec'd the Dec/Jan copy of *Against the Grain* yet, and the other two people who attended the Charleston Conference this year, with me, have received their copies. Now we are wondering/trying to remember: is a subscription part of the conference fee or do we have to subscribe after you've hooked us with one year? And yes, you've hooked us! I circulated *Against the Grain* this last year, and several non-tech librarians want it, before the Tech librarians get it read! By the way, we can't de-

cide which was better: the conference or the city.

Thanks. **Karen Clift**

(Technical Services Librarian, Acquisitions, Miami University Libraries, Oxford, Ohio 45056) <kdc@lib.muohio.edu>

Ed. Note: Yes, an *ATG* one-year subscription comes with attendance at the Charleston Conference! — **KS**

Dear Editor:

I have just read Martin White's recent ar-

ticle ("International Dateline: Higher Education in the UK," *ATG*, v.11#2, p.85).

It seems incredible that, in writing for publication on UK HE libraries in an acquisitions journal, Mr. White did not discuss the purchasing consortia. He implies that purchasing consortia are nascent ("there has been significant interest in the creation of purchasing consortia on a regional basis"); the Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC) has been active since 1974!

Mr. White does the UK great disservice in ignoring the existing high level of organisation and activity, and the effects of consortia on the market. In a recent study we estimated that, at the end of 1998, 75% of HE expenditure on books and 53% of HE expenditure on serials were covered by consortium agreements. Annual savings ascribable to consortia were of the order of £2.8m, well over 1% of total HE library spending (including staffing).

Coverage and savings have increased this year as new contracts have been awarded.

David Ball

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Ed. Note: See International Dateline this issue, p. 76. — **KS**

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Against the Grain Deadlines 2000 — Volume 12

Event	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
SLA, MLA	April 2000	02/09/00	02/23/00
ALA Annual	June 2000	04/05/00	04/19/00
Reference Publishing	Sept. 2000	07/05/00	07/19/00
Charleston Conference	Nov. 2000	08/23/00	09/06/00
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 00/Jan. 01	10/25/00	11/08/00